

## Message Text

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16

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 EB-07 AGR-10 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 /034 W

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R 160719Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 576

UNCLAS JIDDA 1844

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, SA, XI, SF

SUBJECT: SAUDI ARABIAN MARKET FOR U.S. WEST COAST LUMBER  
AND PLYWOOD

1. EMBASSY OFFICERS LEARNED FROM SEVERAL SAUDI BUSINESS-  
MEN WHO IMPORT LUMBER AND PLYWOOD FOR THE SAUDI ARABIAN  
MARKET THAT AMERICAN LUMBER/PLYWOOD PRODUCTS ARE  
FACING SEVERE COMPETITION FROM BOTH COMECON COUNTRIES  
AND ASIAN PRODUCERS. LOWER COST, SHORTER SHIPPING  
TIME WERE MENTIONED AS THE TWO MAJOR FACTORS INFLUENCING  
SAUDI PREFERENCE FOR COMECON/ASIAN LUMBER AND PLYWOOD.  
A SECONDARY FACTOR WAS PAST AMERICAN RELUCTANCE TO CUT  
LOGS TO SIZES REQUESTED BY LOCAL CONSUMERS.

2. TWO MAJOR IMPORTERS IN JIDDA ARE ABDALLAH MUHAMMAD  
AL-BARUM COMPANY, POST OFFICE BOX 1346, AND AHMAD  
MUHAMMAD BA'BUD COMPANY, POST OFFICE BOX 669.  
THE AL-BARUM COMPANY IMPORTED 80,000 CUBIC FEET OF LUMBER  
IN 1974 AND ESTIMATES THE TOTAL WILL EXCEED 60,000  
CUBIC FEET FOR 1975. AVERAGE COST QUOTED WAS \$129.00  
PER CUBIC METER. SOUTH AFRICAN COMPANIES HAVE OFFERED TO  
FURNISH LUMBER AT \$120.00 PER CUBIC METER. DELIVERY TIME TO  
JIDDA FROM THE COMECON COUNTRIES WAS 90 DAYS FROM  
RECEIPT OF ORDER.

3. SAUDI ARABIA IMPORTS THE MAJORITY OF ITS SOFT  
WOOD FROM RUMANIA, AUSTRIA, AND BULGARIA. KOREA,  
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MALAYSIA, AND SINGAPORE ARE PRIMARY SOURCES OF PLY-

WOOD. CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS CURRENTLY  
ABSORB THE BULK OF THE IMPORTED WOODS. THERE IS  
LITTLE DEMAND FOR HARDWOODS.

4. SAUDI GOVERNMENTAL STATISTICS FOR IMPORTED WOOD  
FOR 1973 WERE AS FOLLOWS:

	TONS	VALUE
	(THOU. RIYALS)	

WOOD, RAW	43,570	19,323
WOOD, SAWN LENGTHWISE	57,730	27,209
HOOP WOOD, TURNED	5,494	5,702
AKINS		

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## Message Attributes

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**Concepts:** n/a  
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